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DE RUEHPU #0217/01 0301728
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2231
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0923
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 1469
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 1951
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 2417
RUEHBH/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 2650
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 1604
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0759
RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 0345
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0247
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC 0364
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0802

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PORT AU PRINCE 000217

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR
DRL
S/CRS
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
INR/IAA (BEN-YEHUDA)
TREASURY FOR JEFFREY LEVINE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [PKAO](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: HAITI ELECTION DAY PROCESS AND PLANS

1. Introduction: This cable outlines the process for election day including: opening and closing of voting centers; public transportation; the steps to casting a vote; transporting the results to Port-au-Prince for tabulation; and releasing the results to the public. End Introduction.

2. Schedule for Voting Centers

- 5:00 a.m.: 38,000 voting center personnel arrive at voting centers.
- 5:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.: Personnel set up voting
- 6:00 a.m.: Voting opens
- 4:00 p.m.: Voting closes (any voters already in line at 1600 will be allowed to vote)

3. Public Transportation Available

The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) and IGOH plan to allow public transportation on election day, but have not decided how to handle private vehicles. CEP Director General Jacques Bernard believes private vehicles used for carpools should be permitted to facilitate middle class voting. MINUSTAH, the HNP, and UNPOL plan to set-up perimeters around each voting center to prevent traffic from clogging the centers, but have not finished working out the details of the plan. MINUSTAH elections officials have also requested that the IGOH prohibit all traffic after voting to facilitate results transportation and augment security.

4. Steps to Casting a Vote

- Voting site (BV) First Secretary checks voter IDs at the door to the BV and directs them to the president of the BV.
- BV President examines both of the voter's hands to make sure there is no mark indicating they have already voted.
- BV President finds voter's name, photo (identical to the ID

card photo) and ID number on the partial electoral list (LEP).

- Voter signs next to their name on the LEP.
- BV Vice President gives the voter a ballot for presidential, senatorial and deputy races.
- BV Vice President explains that the voter can choose one president, three senators, and one deputy.
- BV Vice President explains that voter should fold ballot as soon as he votes to keep his decision private.
- Voter casts vote at table divided in four by a cardboard divider.
- BV Second Secretary helps voter place ballots in boxes corresponding to each race, but does not touch ballots.
- BV Second Secretary marks voter's thumb nail with indelible marker.

15. Counting the Votes

- Vote count begins at 1600 or after all voters in line at 4 p.m. have voted.
- Candidate, party, national, and international observers monitor counting. They will be asked keep a separate count to verify the official count before the BV president records the official results.
- Beginning with the presidential race, the BV President will remove ballots from the ballot box one by one, calling out who the vote is for, if the ballot is blank, or if the ballot is undecipherable.
- BV President will show the ballot to all observers so they can confirm his assessment.
- BV Secretaries will sort the ballots by candidate.
- Once all the ballots are removed from the box and sorted, the BV secretaries will count the votes for each candidate.

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- The votes will be counted again if any of the observers in the room disagree with the count.
- Once, all the observers agree on the results, the BV president will fill out the tally sheet and place clear tape over the results on every carbon copy of the tally sheet.
- BV Secretaries will seal all of the ballots in one of the ballot boxes.
- BV President seals three tally sheets in envelopes, one for the communal electoral bureau (BEC), one for the departmental electoral bureau (BED), and one for the CEP as required by the electoral law.
- BV President seals the tally sheet for the CEP as well as the time and attendance sheets for the poll workers in a tamper-proof plastic bag for delivery to Port-au-Prince.
- A tally sheet is given to each of the two political parties with the most votes, and one is displayed publicly on the wall of the BV.
- CEP staff accompany the results throughout the process; only Haitian elections workers are allowed to handle the results.
- UN vehicles and in some cases rented animals carry the sealed results to UN departmental bases co-located with or close to the BEDs.
- The UN will provide space in all vehicles carrying results (trucks and helicopters) for observers.

16. Ballots Stored, Tally Sheets Transferred

- CEP staff unloads the ballots and tally sheets at MINUSTAH departmental bases.
- Ballots are locked in secure storage.
- One copy of each tally sheet is sent to the relevant BEC, the BED, and the tabulation center in Port-au-Prince

Note: Elections officials hope to transport tally sheets to the tabulation center in Port-au-Prince quickly. However, they caution that because results transportation from some remote areas may be by donkey and some roads are nearly impassable in foul weather, it will likely take 3 - 5 days to count all of the results in Port-au-Prince. End Note.

17. Tabulating and Releasing the Results

- CEP workers log in each tally sheet by their unique identification number as they arrive at the tabulation center (septel).
- Each tally sheet is randomly assigned to an OAS/CEP-trained operator who enters the results into a computer.
- The sheet is then passed to another randomly selected operator who enters the results a second time.
- If the two entries do not match, the sheet is sent to a committee that examines the entered results and the tally sheet to verify the results.
- The CEP will release results from the USAID-funded media center, but has not yet decided when they will begin to release results.

Note: Members of the press, elections observers, and members of the diplomatic community will have access to the tabulation center throughout the counting process. However, the tabulation center is divided into sections to prevent results from leaking before they are officially release by the CEP. End Note.

18. Comment: It has taken many delay-filled months for MINUSTAH and the CEP to develop the electoral process, but the technical process for voting and tabulation is complete. Elections organizers still worry about personnel problems, traffic on election day, confused crowds at voting centers, and the potential for violence. They also worry about

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politically motivated contestation after the election and potential spoilers. This year's election day process will make fraud significantly more difficult than in past elections and should lead to a more credible result.
CARNEY